



East Central Idaho News

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON & TETON COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The low 1.8 percent July seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area decreased four-tenths of a percentage point from June and decreased 1.2 percentage points from the same time last year as shown in East Central Idaho Table 1. Continued population growth, a slow down in new job growth and additional student population converging on the work force has tightened an already tight labor market. Agricultural, construction and retail employers are having a very difficult time hiring enough workers to run their businesses while their current workers are putting in extra hours and taking on additional work to fulfill demand. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the metropolitan area, has a low unemployment rate of 1.7 percent, down four-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month and down 1.6 percentage points from the same time last year.

FINDING IT ON THE WEB

Finding data on some Web sites can be complicated, and most data users don't have several hours to spare looking for one needed statistic. The Idaho Department of Labor continues trying to make data surfing user friendly. For a quick way to get the most demanded statistics on any one Idaho county go to the main Department of Labor Web site at labor.idaho.gov and click on Statistics & Research on the dark blue menu on the far left of the screen. From the pop-out menu that opens from there, click on Labor Market Profiles and then select from a list of Idaho's 44 counties. Each profile includes the last 10 years of population activity, labor force data, covered employment information, average annual wages by type of job and per capita income. These are all in easy-to-read charts and graphs and include short write-ups of each county's economic environment. The industrial makeup of the county, major employers and occupational wages are also included.

East Central Idaho Table 1: Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville and Jefferson counties

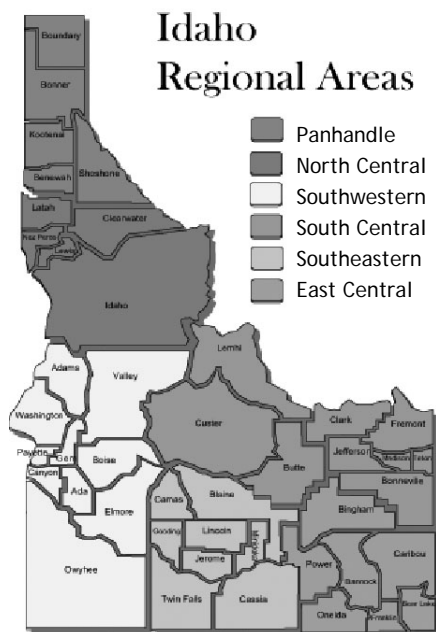
	Jul 2007*	Jun 2007	Jul 2006	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	58,290	58,250	56,500	0.1	3.2
Unemployment	1,070	1,260	1,680	-15.1	-36.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.8	2.2	3.0		
Total Employment	57,210	57,000	54,810	0.4	4.4
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	59,640	59,300	57,270	0.6	4.1
Unemployment	870	1,060	1,540	-17.9	-43.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	1.5	1.8	2.7		
Total Employment	58,770	58,240	55,730	0.9	5.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	52,240	52,840	50,820	-1.1	2.8
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,510	8,470	8,340	0.5	2.0
Natural Resources & Mining	20	10	10	100.0	100.0
Construction	5,070	5,040	4,950	0.6	2.4
Manufacturing	3,420	3,420	3,380	0.0	1.2
Food Manufacturing	1,020	1,060	950	-3.8	7.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	330	310	260	6.5	26.9
Machinery Manufacturing	150	150	160	0.0	-6.3
Other Manufacturing	1,920	1,900	2,010	1.1	-4.5
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	43,730	44,370	42,480	-1.4	2.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,750	13,830	13,470	-0.6	2.1
Wholesale Trade	3,970	3,990	4,030	-0.5	-1.5
Retail Trade	7,890	7,950	7,650	-0.8	3.1
Utilities	40	60	60	-33.3	-33.3
Transportation	1,850	1,830	1,730	1.1	6.9
Information	1,240	1,240	1,290	0.0	-3.9
Financial Activities	2,310	2,310	2,190	0.0	5.5
Professional & Business Services	6,110	5,910	5,630	3.4	8.5
Educational & Health Services	7,230	7,240	6,850	-0.1	5.5
Leisure & Hospitality	4,640	4,560	4,750	1.8	-2.3
Other Services	1,980	1,920	2,110	3.1	-6.2
Government Education	2,690	3,490	2,650	-22.9	1.5
Government Administration	3,780	3,870	3,540	-2.3	6.8

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Much more information is available by selecting "View Labor Market Information" from the pop-out menu. It will bring up the labor market home page — lmi.idaho.gov. On that page the far right column includes links to the most requested and latest Idaho statistics. The blue menu on the left side provides links to all other labor market information and services available from the agency by topic. The center of the page links to the most recent and requested press releases, surveys, publications and other material about the Idaho labor force. The red menu bar across the top provides other categories of information. The My Site menu item

allows users to set up personal accounts of the information they are most interested in. As new information comes available, it is updated on My Site so the user can pull up the most recent data and information each time it is accessed. The Data tab allows users to find detailed historical information on statistics through a series of drop-down tabs. The Area LMI tab provides users with labor information specific to regions, counties and some cities by clicking on the desired area of the map. A black and white version of the map is pictured below.



From the Area LMI pages, businesses within the county can be viewed by industry type or alphabetically and the region's hot jobs — the fast-growing, high-paying and in-demand jobs projected for the next 10 years — plus loads of other information.

The labor market home page also includes the requisite Search function on the top right of the home page and a Site Map link at the bottom of the home page. But the regional economists are always a phone call or e-mail away to answer questions. Contact information for each region's economist is provided at the end of regional articles in this newsletter.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Plans at Taylor Crossing have changed since the information in the August issue of Idaho Employment. Instead of building a 13-story hotel/condo unit with a Marriott Inn on the first six floors and condos on the top seven floors, the developers are now building a five-story Marriott Residence Inn behind Smitty's restaurant, and condominiums will be constructed at other areas along the river and throughout the development.

Taylor Crossing also treated people in the Idaho Falls area to the second annual "Summer Days" in August, a celebration including food vendors, eating contests, BMX rider demonstrations, free concerts and a screening of the movie "Wild Hogs." an estimated 12,000 people attended.

- Hollister Co., a clothing chain targeting teenagers, is opening in the Grand Teton Mall in Idaho Falls next to Zumiez. The retail store will open in December. Hollister is a brand of Abercrombie & Fitch that operates as a separate retailer. It has nearly 400 stores across the nation.
- Inspired Living is the last store to fill up the strip mall at the East Side Galleria in Ammon. Inspired Living is an interior decoration business owned by Michelle Rushton who has been doing interior decorating for 20 years and also works as a hairdresser. Oil paintings, custom texturing and floral arranging are some of the offerings. The business is in Suite 120.

MADISON COUNTY

- Me 'n Stan's restaurant closed in Rexburg after 38 years. Owner Stan Colborn is retiring from the restaurant business at age 72, but will still sell his famous honey butter to locals. Stan has been in the restaurant business since the end of his 7th grade and started the Rexburg Me 'n Stan's in 1969. His first Rexburg store washed away in the Teton Dam Flood in 1976, but he kept operating out of the courthouse auxiliary until he built a new restaurant at its current location. Stan owned five other Me 'n Stan's during his restaurant days, and his son runs the last one in Rigby.

LEMHI COUNTY

- Outfitters are still being hit hard in the Salmon area from the effects of wildfires. The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness has been inundated by fires, causing officials to close areas for hunting, camping and river launching at the Main Salmon River and Middle Fork Salmon River during the height of float-boat season. As of Sept. 5, several fires in the region are still active and have burned over 124,000 acres surrounding the area. Many are at and unknown percent containment. Besides the negative effects for outfitters and guides, retailers are also suffering from loss of sales generated by hunters, tourists and vacationers in non-fire years. Residents have also suffered as smoke periodically pours into the valley and remains for days at a time. Salmon suffered economic impact from fires in 2000. Realizing that nature can't always be controlled doesn't make it any easier for the financial crunch that the community feels during and after these large fires.

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